

PRoD 14-2-2

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Geography Division, ORR

Project Initiation Memorandum

To: Chief, Geographic Research

Project No. 61.1860

From: Chief, Geography Division

Date: 12 May 1960

1. Subject of Proposed Project: South Vietnam
2. Statement of Problem: The security situation in South Vietnam has deteriorated, with an influx of an estimated 3000 Viet Minh guerrillas and agents into that country. Assassinations of local South Vietnamese officials and acts of sabotage carried on by bands of Communist guerrillas numbering 100-300 men have resulted in a situation in some areas which has been compared to the insecurity prevailing in 1954. This geographic intelligence memorandum will provide an intelligence appreciation of geographic factors relevant to the present situation.

As the situation has similarities to that of Laos in the summer of 1959, it is proposed to use a format somewhat like that of the GI on Laos.

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3. Requester: Self-initiated.
4. Responsible Analyst: [REDACTED] GG/P.

5. Kind and Extent of Cooperation Desired:

- a. D/GC to prepare two maps: 1.) One small map to show distribution of ethnic groups and Vietnamese sects. 2.) One large map (terrain shaded) to show "agrovilles" and resettlement sites, roads, main tracks, railways, and seasonally inundated areas.
- b. Other parts of CIA: Information coordination with OCI.
- c. Outside CIA: Check DEI/AMS for latest information on roads.

6. Estimated Man Hours in D/GC: 150

7. Probable Completion Date: July 1960

8. Form of Final Publication: CIA/RR GM 60--

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[REDACTED]
Chief, Geography Division

Approved: [REDACTED] (Signed)

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(25X1A9a) Geographic Research

[REDACTED]
Assistant Director, ORR

16 MAY 1960

Date

17 MAY 1960

Date

Have you checked FE/DDP?
Yes, FE is quite
interested in having this
done.